

**Wisconsin Association of FFA  
Board of Directors Meeting  
February 17, 2005  
The Hotel Mead, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin**

The Wisconsin Association of FFA Board of Directors meeting was called to order by State FFA President, Nicole Schmidt, at 7:16pm on February 17, 2005. The following members of the Board were present Mr. Edward Belinski; State FFA Vice President Michelle Rudolph; Mr. Marty Nowak; Ms. Jenifer Erb; State FFA Reporter Tyler Sailsbery; Ms. Rene Lehman; Mr. Peter Mueller; State FFA Vice President Brandon Hager; Mr. Jeff Hicken; Ms. Kim Houser; Mrs. Deb Ihm; State FFA Parliamentarian Danielle Russell; Mr. Steve Stoppelmoor; State FFA Secretary Kelsey Murphy; Ms. Christine Jumbeck; Ms. Leigh Siegmund; State FFA Vice President Dani Raether; Mr. Derrick Meyer; Mr. Zobeck; State FFA President Nicole Schmidt; State FFA Executive Director Mrs. Cheryl Zimmerman. Also present Mrs. Sharon Wendt.

The minutes from the previous Wisconsin Association of FFA Board of Directors meeting held on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005 were reviewed. No changes or corrections were made. The minutes were approved.

Reports were given by the State FFA Officer team.

- \* Tyler Sailsbery gave a report on CTSO (Career and Technical Student Organization) Day. He told the board he enjoyed the opportunity to attend this event because he was able to interact with State Officers from other CTSOs, speak with numerous legislators, see the Capitol, and talk to a State Supreme Court Judge.

- \* Brandon Hager gave a report on the State FFA Alumni Convention. He informed the Board that the State Officers conducted two workshops that were both well attended. He also noted that the State Officers sold themselves as a "Basket of Leadership" at the auction. Nicole noted that Mr. Dean Gagnon received a letter from an Alumni member from Kiel and that said the State officers did an awesome job at the convention.

- \* Dani Raether gave a report on the District Speaking Contests. She said that she enjoyed attending the Speaking contests because it was neat to see how members have matured so much since the beginning of the year.

Mrs. Zimmerman handed out the 2005 District Speaking Contest results. At this time, not all of the results are in, but the rest should be at the Wisconsin FFA Center by Monday or Tuesday.

Mrs. Zimmerman talked about the importance of confidentiality of the questions and topics. When confidential information is given to a host it should not be distributed and should be returned to the Wisconsin FFA Center.

FFA membership rosters are being reviewed to make sure all of the contestants are listed as active members. A sheet of paper was handed out that listed students that were not found on a roster yet but competed in the District Speaking Contests. April 1<sup>st</sup> will be the final deadline for supplemental rosters to be sent to DPI.

Speaking Contest rule violations were discussed. This year there was one student who had competed for a second year in Creed Speaking. They did not qualify to advance to the Sectional Competition, so a notice would need to be sent to the chapter to inform that advisor that students are not allowed to compete twice in this contest. If the student would have placed first or second, they would not have been eligible to advance to sectional competition.

Mrs. Zimmerman emphasized that if a student or team is going to advance to the Sectional contest, they must be at and compete at the District Contest. The team must also have the minimum number of students present at Districts in order to advance. Mr. Belinski spoke up and said that some of his students competing in the Quiz Bowl competition had a conflict on the same night, so five of the ten quiz bowl team members were not present at the contest. He had four members on one team and one member on the other. They were the only two teams there. The minimum number of members that you must have on a quiz bowl team to compete is three, but one of Mr. Belinski's teams only had one member. It was discussed that we should follow the rules. Mrs. Zimmerman asked the Board to take action. Mr. Belinski was asked to clarify how many members were on each team. Mr. Belinski then clarified that there were five on one team and one on the other. Danielle made a motion to disqualify the Johnson Creek Quiz Bowl team consisting of one member from moving on to sectionals. Michelle seconded the motion. The motion passed and the advisors sustained the actions of the State Officers. The Johnson Creek FFA Chapter can only send one quiz bowl team to Sectionals because the other one did not have enough members to qualify.

Announcements and reminders about the upcoming Sectional Speaking contests were made and Mrs. Zimmerman wanted to let everyone know that the dates of the Sectional contests are posted on the website and all competitors must have their materials to the hosting chapter two weeks prior to the contest. Another suggestion was that any chapters hosting a contest in the future should have a tabulation room set up. This room would be where all the official placing sheets and confidential information would be turned in.

Mrs. Zimmerman asked the Board if someone should compile a huge book of quiz bowl questions to help teams prepare. Mrs. Zimmerman also thought that this could be a solution to the problem of confidential information being passed around. Brandon said that instead of compiling a huge book, we should send out sample questions. Danielle was in favor of making some type of guide that teams can focus on. No motion was made on whether or not to make a book of quiz bowl questions.

The last topic regarding speaking contests was whether or not to have an "open door policy." It was stated that no matter what policy the hosting school decides to go by, they need tell all of the competitors ahead of time so that the advisors can pass it along to parents. It was discussed that if this is a public speaking competition that these competitors should be speaking in front of an audience, but shouldn't be heckled or interrupted. No motion was made concerning this issue.

The state officers went around the room and gave a brief overview of what they will be doing during FFA week. Many will be visiting schools, putting on workshops, and participating in fun events like donkey ball or ice fishing.

Tyler and Gena presented their committee report to the Board. An overview of the recommendation included: (1) Redesigning the Greenhand conference to fit the knowledge

level of both Greenhand and Discovery FFA members; (2) Adding an Opening and Closing Ceremonies Speaking Competition to the Sectional Level and including it in the Speaking Contest Handbook; (3) Discontinuing the Diamond Award; (4) State officer candidates from each section attend the State Leadership Dinner on Wednesday night of State Convention; (5) Conduct a Wisconsin FFA Chapter Website Competition.

Dani presented the Membership committee report. This report recommended that the State Officers continue to recognize chapters with 100% membership and continue to promote the supplemental roster. No action was taken on these committees at this meeting. Official action will be taken at the March meeting in Madison.

State FFA Executive Director Cheryl Zimmerman provided her report. She gave an overview of the National Agriculture Education Inservice held in Indianapolis last month. The focus of the conference was “Working Together to Support Agriculture Education.” Including Mrs. Zimmerman, the following people from Wisconsin attended, Dean Gagnon, Dale Beaty, Jim Graham, Mark Zidon, Ron Von Glahn, Paul Larson, and Mark Zimmerman. They attended numerous workshops. Some of the key points that Mrs. Zimmerman wanted to mention were, (1) that the FFA jackets will be available in the new fit sometime this year and sample jackets will be at the State FFA Convention for students to try on, and (2) there will be an update in the awards and programs for the 2006-2010 school year and Mrs. Zimmerman will be attending training for this in April. These changes include, (1) a new proficiency award area – Agriculture Education, (2) minor changes in the Proficiency and American Degree Application, (3) due date change for the American Degree, (4) changes in the National Chapter Award, and (5) several changes in the career development events.

The 2005 Half-Time Conference had an increase of 17 students from last year, making this year’s total 455. At the Half-Time Conference, besides the student workshops, other groups including the Wisconsin FFA Board of Directors, the Wisconsin FFA Center, WAAE, State FFA Officer Task Force Committee, WAAE PR Committee, Jag Lake Improvement Committee, WAAE Mentor Training, Alumni Executive Director Interviews, and a sharing workshop for FFA advisors also took place.

481 State Degrees were received and processed by the FFA Center and the State Board will be reviewing them on February 17 and 18. The Star Finalist Selection will be March 9<sup>th</sup>. 219 State FFA Honors Band and Honors Chorus application have also been received and will be processed. Former Wisconsin State FFA Officer Ron Henningfeld was selected to serve as a National FFA Washington Leadership Conference Counselor.

Mrs. Zimmerman then gave an update on some of the current projects.

- \* The Wisconsin FFA Website continues to be updated and thanks to the help of Dr. Tim Buttles and the UW-RF Ag Ed Students, new applications are being posted frequently.

- \* The State FFA Officer Task Force has been meeting since November and discussing key issues concerning that State FFA Officer Experience. The task force has been focusing on four areas of marketing, expectations, support, and the election process. There will also be a spot on the FFA website that is being designed for State Officer candidates. The final Task Force recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors at their March meeting.

- \*Kelsey gave a short report on the “Take an FFA Member to Work Day” project that she started. So far, there are two students that showed interest.

\*Nicole gave a brief report about the “Telephone Tuesday” project. This was a project initiated by the State Officers because of the complete cut of the Carl Perkins funding in President Bush’s Bill. The State Officers want as many teachers, students, members, and supporters of the FFA to call, e-mail, send letters, or fax Washington D.C. their concerns about this cut. The State Officers want people to try to do this the Tuesday of FFA Week so that Washington D.C. can hear one loud voice.

\*National FFA News. Jackie Mundt, National FFA President, just returned from Japan and will be starting her Business and Industry Tour visits soon. She plans to be back in Wisconsin around March 18-19 to attend the MFE/EDGE Conference in Eau Claire.

\*As of February 14, there were 15,472 members in Wisconsin.

\*An informational sheet about a fundraising project was passed out for State Officers and Advisors to share with other chapters. Another sheet about a scholarship program was passed out as well.

#### Old Business.

The Board discussed the “probation” and “prohibited” chapters. The chapters that are placed on the “probation” list include Green Bay West, Laconia, Mosinee, Orfordville-Parkview, Richland Center, River Valley, UW-Madison Collegiate, Algoma, Flambeau, Howards Grove, Northwestern, and North Crawford. Chapter placed on the “prohibited” list include Belmont, Hudson, and Wrightstown. The chapters placed on the “prohibited” list as it reads in the State FFA Constitution, are “not permitted to participate in State Competitions upon a majority vote of the State Board.” Mrs. Zimmerman asked the Board to help clarify what this excludes these chapters from participating in. Brandon made a motion that any chapter on the “prohibited” list is able to participate in State Career Development Events as a practice team, but cannot be ranked for the remainder of the year. Danielle seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and the advisors sustained the actions of the State Officers.

Review the Chapter Award Application Form. Mrs. Zimmerman has been hearing concerns from advisors about chapter awards getting too long, too repetitive, and that there are too many. Mrs. Zimmerman handed out a revised copy of the new form and an application process packet. It was discussed about the concern that this looks like it is a creative writing exercise and is concerned that this is a lot of writing. It was also commented that it should be something more like a portfolio with captions. It was also discussed that as a new teacher it is hard to know what answers the judges are looking for in an application like this one. It was asked if the sponsors of this award were asked what they would like to see done. Mrs. Zimmerman said that they were not contacted, but past judges of this competition were asked what they thought. Also advisors were asked their input and mixed comments were received...some teachers liked specific questions, other wanted just space to put what they wanted to highlight their activities. Mrs. Zimmerman also said that the judges were interested in bringing in the top ten chapters for each award area and having an interview. Concern was discussed that if the teams were coming in for interviews that this would turn into a speaking contest. It was agreed that there would have to be some guidelines for these interviews. It was agreed that these interviews would be

used as clarification interviews about the application and its activities. No power points or special prepared presentations would be allowed. Mrs. Zimmerman said that she thinks we should give this application a try and see how it works with the new scorecard and the interviews. She said if it didn't go over this year, we can try something new next year. Gena made a motion to use the new, revised application, scorecard and have two members from each of the top chapters to come in for an interview this year. Tyler seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the state officers and the advisors sustained their action.

#### New Business

Tsunami Fundraising Proposal made by the Sun Prairie FFA Chapter. The proposal was for every FFA member in Wisconsin to donate one dollar that would then be collected and used toward the Tsunami Relief Funding. Tyler made a motion that the Wisconsin FFA promote the Sun Prairie Tsunami Fund Raising Proposal to the FFA chapters in Wisconsin. Kelsey seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and the advisors sustained their action.

The Unified Branding and Strategic Marketing Plan Initiative was reviewed and discussed. Tyler made a motion to approve the Wisconsin Association of FFA funding of \$1,201.33 to the Unified Branding and Strategic Marketing Plan Initiative. Brandon seconded the motion. It was asked for some clarification of what this company (Filament) is planning to do and what our involvement will be. Mrs. Zimmerman explained that the FFA has so many different parts, which will be called agencies in this plan. She explained that there is the FFA Foundation, the Wisconsin Association of FFA, the FFA Center, WAAE, and the FFA Alumni and they all have different marketing strategies. This project will bring all of us together to form one common plan, she explained. After much discussion Brandon called an informal question. There were no objections so debate stopped. The motion to approve the Wisconsin Association of FFA funding of \$1,201.33 to the Unified Branding and Strategic Marketing Plan Initiative was passed by the State Officers. The Advisors sustained their action.

#### State FFA Convention Update

Brandon gave his report on the State Convention Speaker Committee. Brandon recommended that we have Dan Gable and Patrick T. Grady be our Convention Speakers and have Rick Rigsby as an alternate. Danielle made a motion to accept Brandon's recommendation. Kelsey seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and the advisors sustained their action. Mrs. Zimmerman also wanted the Board to know that Mr. Doug Loudenslager, National FFA COO would like to attend our convention and Jackie Mundt, National FFA President and Jim Wand will also be there.

Mrs. Zimmerman told us that FFA Farm Forum is moving to a different location next year and will be at a different time. She wanted to know if the Board thought it was still a good idea to meet as a Board at this time of the year and if it matters if this meeting is "attached" to anything else. The Board agreed that this meeting is important and it does not need to be attached to anything.

Danielle made a motion to adjourn. Brandon seconded the motion. The State Officers passed the motion and the advisors sustained the action of the State Officers.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kelsey Murphy  
State FFA Secretary  
2004-2005